

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW

APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS, ACTING

S/S:SESTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 301455 TOSEC 320213

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM DUBS, ACTING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, LE, US

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: SARKIS APPOINTS EMISSARY  
TO GO TO THE U.S.

1. THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR UNDER INSTRUCTIONS INFORMED US TODAY, DEC 10, THAT SARKIS HAD DESIGNATED GHASSAN TUEINI AS THE EMISSARY WE HAD SUGGESTED HE SEND TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS HOW WE COULD BE HELPFUL IN REBUILDING LEBANESE INSTITUTIONS AND THE ECONOMY. THE AMBASSADOR EXPECTS TO PROVIDE US EARLY NEXT WEEK PROPOSALS FOR THE TIMING OF THE VISIT.

2. TUEINI IS AN EXCELLENT CHOICE AS EMISSARY. HE IS THE GREEK ORTHODOX PUBLISHER OF AN-NAHAR, ONE OF THE LEADING NEWSPAPERS IN LEBANON AND THE ARAB WORLD. FROM JULY 1975 UNTIL SARKIS NAMED THE NEW CABINET ON DECEMBER 9, HE SERVED AS MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN THE KARAME GOVERNMENT AND WAS PROBABLY THE MOST ACTIVE OF THE CABINET IN EFFORTS TO MEET THE RELIEF NEEDS IN HIS COUNTRY. TUEINI IS WIDELY ACCEPTED IN LEBANON BY VIRTUALLY ALL FACTIONS. HE WAS VIRTUALLY THE ONLY PROMINENT CHRISTIAN WHO MOVED FREELY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT

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DURING THE CONFLICT. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH, IS

THOUGHTFUL, ARTICULATE, AND OPEN-MINDED. EDUCATED AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BEIRUT, HE WORKED WELL WITH AMERICANS OVER THE YEARS.

3. DRAFTED: NEA/ARN:MDRAPER/WNHOWELL.

AUTHORIZED: NEA:ADUBS, ACTING. CLEARED: S/S SESTEINER ; ROBINSON

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, EGEN, LE, US, (TUEINI, GHASSAN)  
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